유서진

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퍼펙트 러브

뒤의 앞

Artist's words:

Despite the twists and turns,
Closer volume 1 and 2 are coming out.
I only enjoy doing the rough sketch of the plot.
I finished the rough sketch around May last year.
(Uwa, has it is already been one year...?) I convinced
myself again that I removed all the sweetness,
so I should forget about it from now on. (I think
I can remember faintly that Miss O. from the
Wink editorial department gave advice with
blood and screams in order to convinced me...)
But...for some reason, I started working on this story and
not making much of an effort (really not much effort) and
started to get my feet wet again to begin the final stage
(The real work of drawing a story) and destroy the
nice memories I had of it. I am tasting bitterness and destroying
personal joy. That is the destiny of a professional
manhwa artist...T_T (I am sorry. O2...but I couldn't
be sure until I tried...or I wanted to believe it...)
Despite all that, this story brought me a lot of joy
while I was working on it. My left brain and
right brain could enjoy it together.
If somebody feels the same and enjoys it,
it will have been worth it for me to destroy myself working on it...

...Do you want to run away?

If you do...

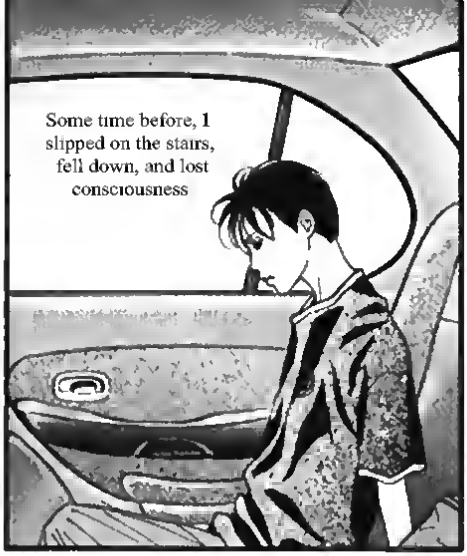
...Whose voice is this?

Whose...touch is this?

When I sleep
I dream
I can't avoid sleep
I don't want to dream about it
When I wake up, please let me not remember anything

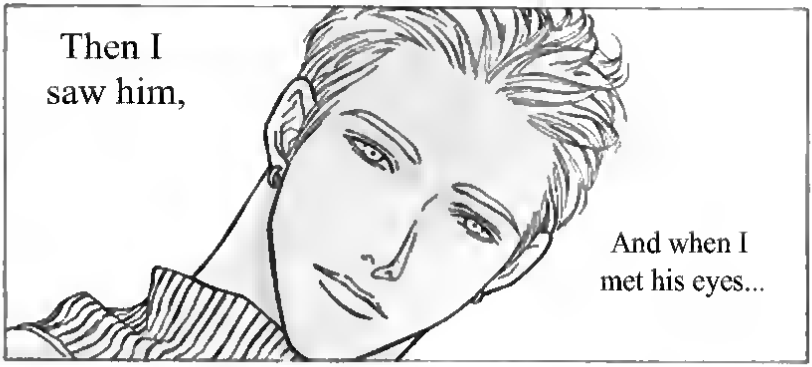
Spell 1. Normal Life

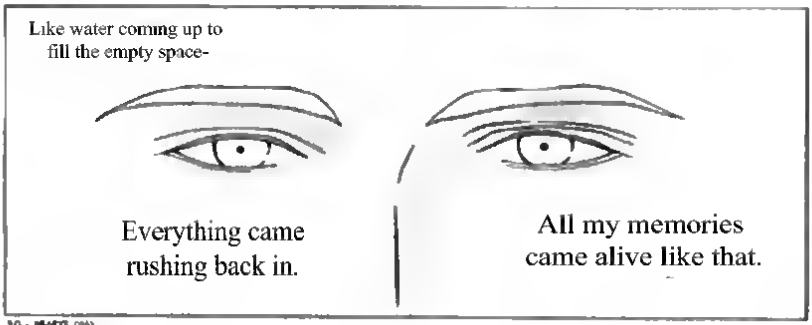
Yi Myung,
You should eat your breakfast properly-
You're barely eating. What's wrong?
I'm late.
Push down
Eat it and go. I'll take you to school by car.
You can still make it in time.
Yeah?



When I woke up, I couldn't remember anything.

Vacuum.
Void.
Emptiness.



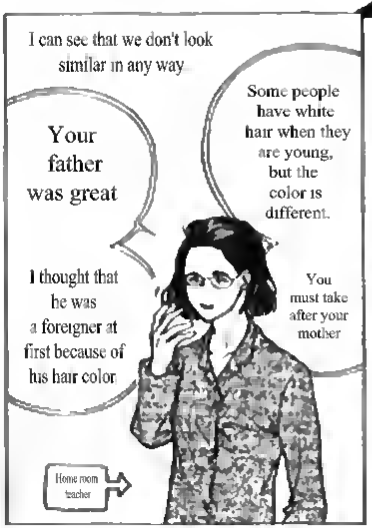


He was my father.
...Father?
Smile
.....
...When...
Huh?
When are we going camping again?

...Ah, yes. Let's go.
When do you want to go?
It was nice when we went before- The weather was nice
Should we go somewhere with a nice river and do some fly-fishing?
....
We went camping.
It was warm and pleasant and peaceful
Wear your hat, it's hot.
Father smiled a lot He is always like that
Did I smile too?
I don't remember,
But I think I was happy then.
Let me out here.
Close
Come home early.
I will make something delicious and wait for you
Ah, yes-

Sfx: look look

Wow- he must be Yi Myung Gun's dad
His hair is white. That's marvelous.
He looks really young. He is handsome right?
They don't look alike at all..
...I often hear that we don't look alike.


I can see that we don't look similar in any way.
Your father was great
Some people have white hair when they are young, but the color is different.
I thought that he was a foreigner at first because of his hair color
You must take after your mother
Home room teacher

I spent a lot of time with him.
Warm and beautiful and peaceful and lovely memories
When I look back on it, I can focus on those warm and beautiful memories.

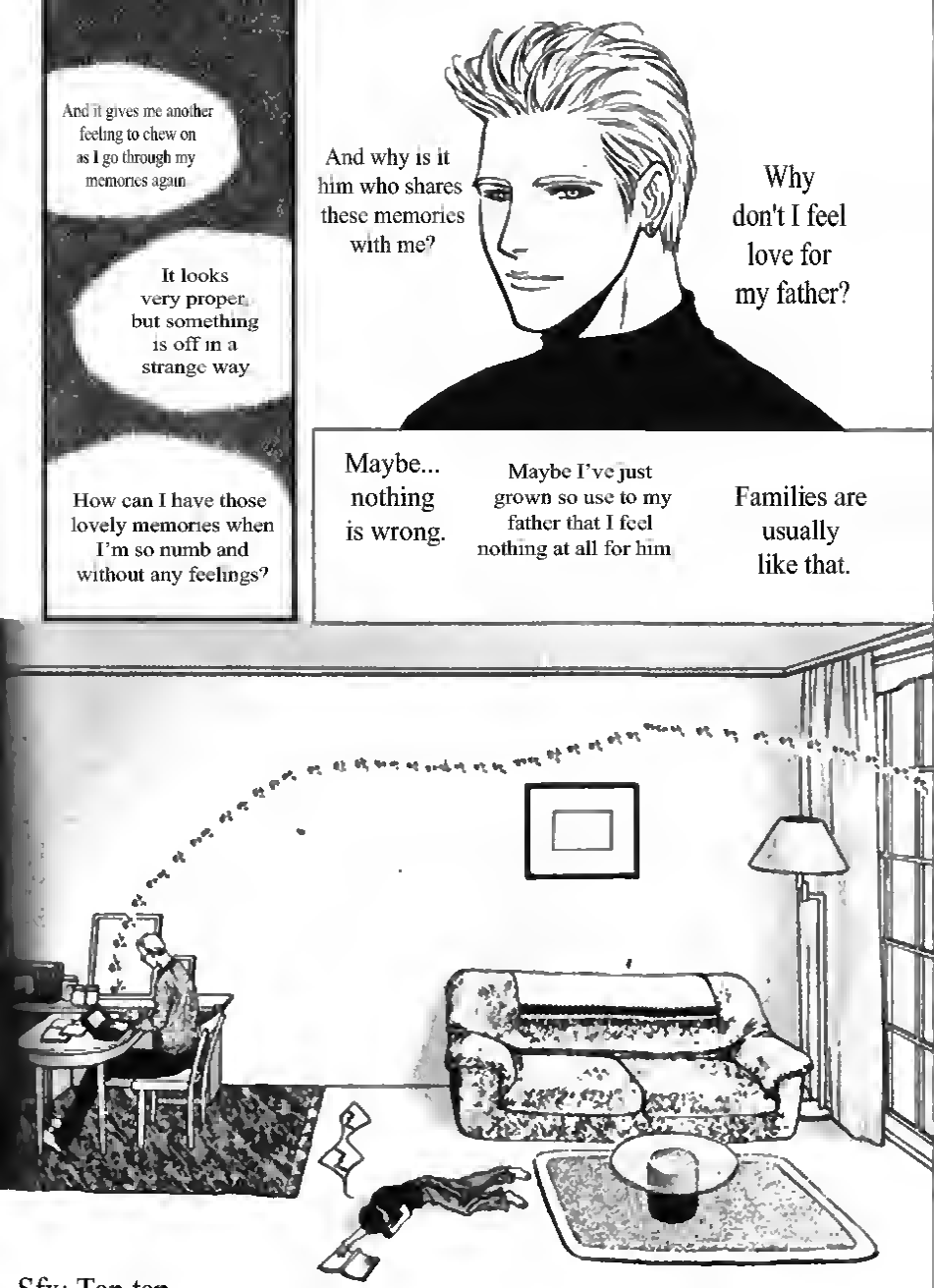
Warm sunlight. The smell of grass. The scent of flowers.

The soft caress of the wind. The blue sky, which makes my heart ache.

The golden sunlight, which reflects upon the water.
Slow and free pleasure when you lie down on the grass
which tickles your neck as you watch the time flow by.

The feast
of senses,

It feels like
somebody
else's memories,


And it gives me another feeling to chew on as I go through my memories again
It looks very proper, but something is off in a strange way
How can I have those lovely memories when I'm so numb and without any feelings?
And why is it him who shares these memories with me?
Why don't I feel love for my father?
Maybe... nothing is wrong.
Maybe I've just grown so use to my father that I feel nothing at all for him
Families are usually like that.

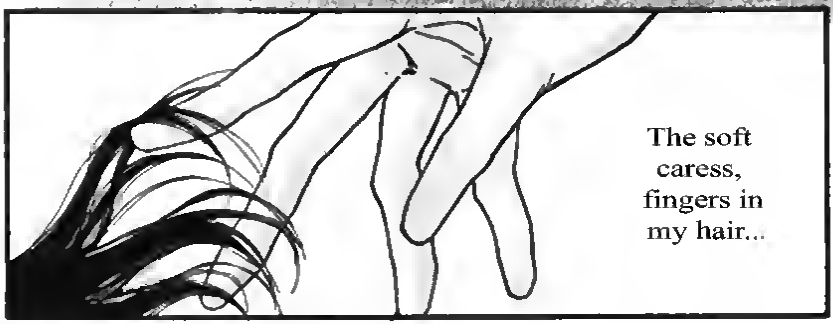
Sfx: Tap tap

...Did you finish work?
Mm- yes. for today.
Do you want to eat outside?
We'll order pizza.
I can't do wrong to others.
It is against my nature, so instead, I get hurt a lot and destroy myself.
Yi Myung, should I put ice in coke?
But if you don't help me as a guardian angel, how can I...

What does he mean by saying that it's against his nature?
He is not adapted to enjoying a flexible life.
But no matter who it is...
There are things that you can and can't do...
Sfx Click
Ah- what is this? This is boring
There is something much more fun on the other channel-
!

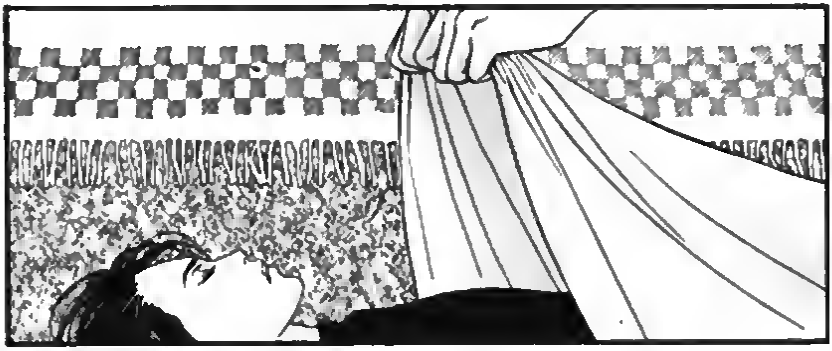
.....
I let him change the channel,
But I wanted to see more of that movie.
I thought that the angel with a huge wing looked beautiful.
Like my heart became strangely hot.
It was beautiful.
...Am I dreaming?

I don't know what dream it is.



Somehow...it's very familiar...

And too much ...unfamiliar.



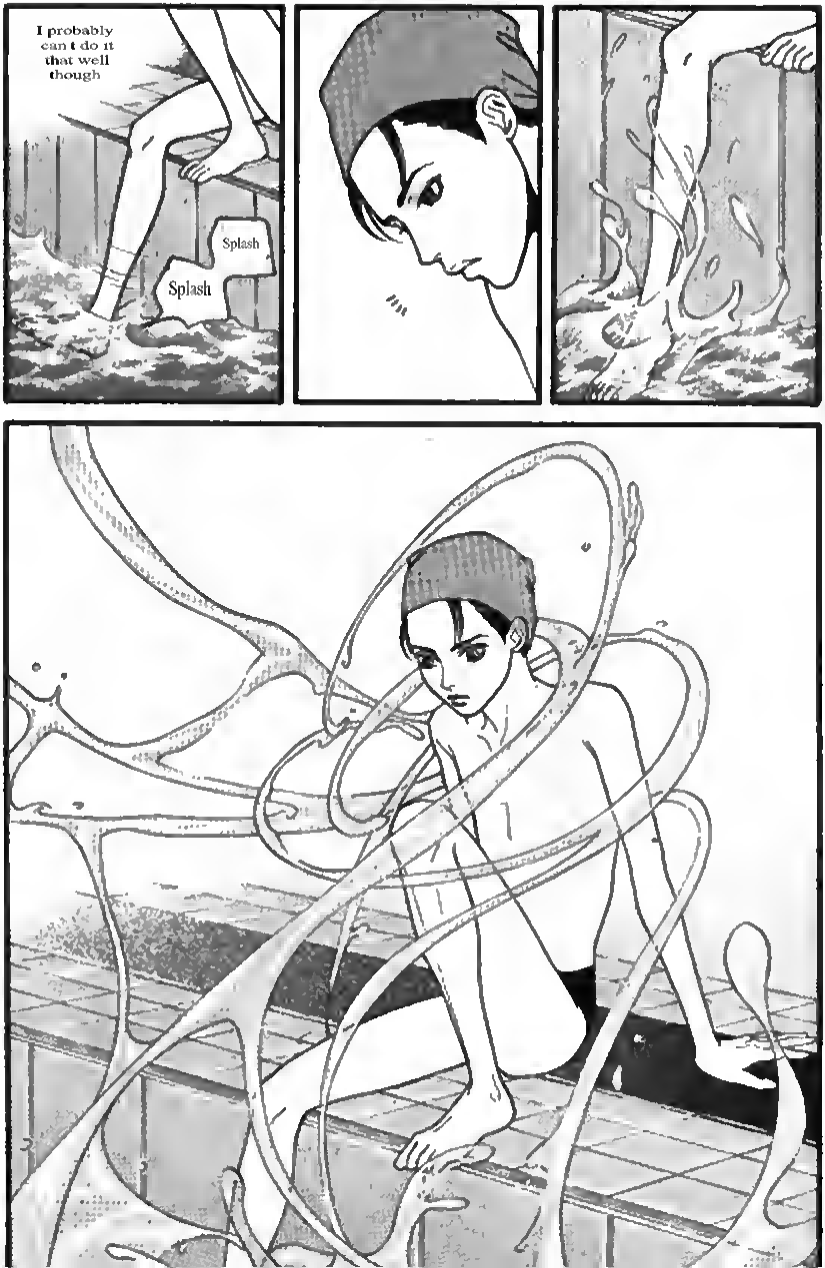
And then-

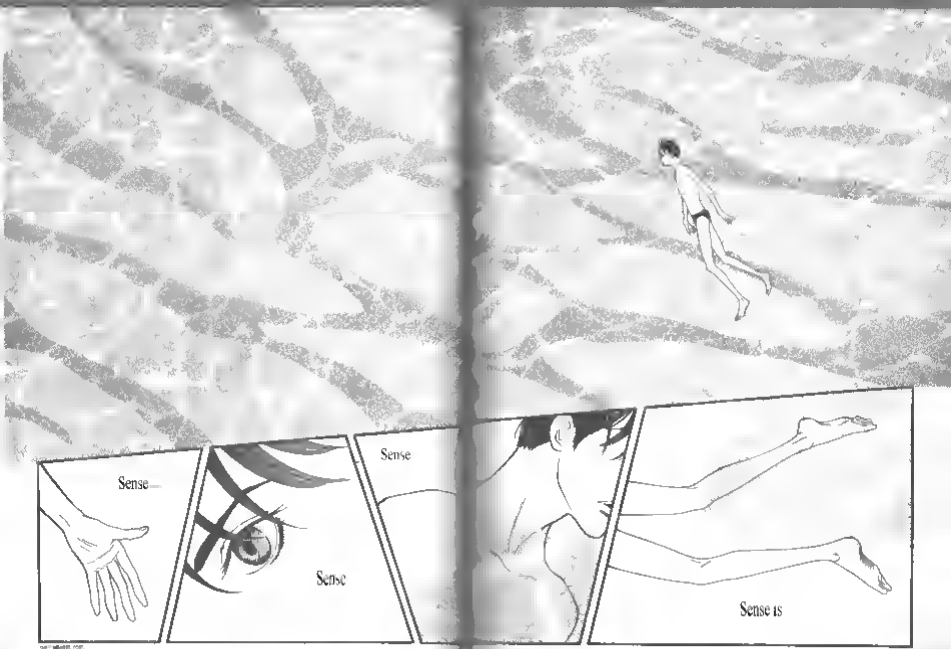
I woke up as if I had been splashed with cold water.
Suddenly, everything was...
Huh?
Did you wake up?
.....
Every-thing is...
Very normal.

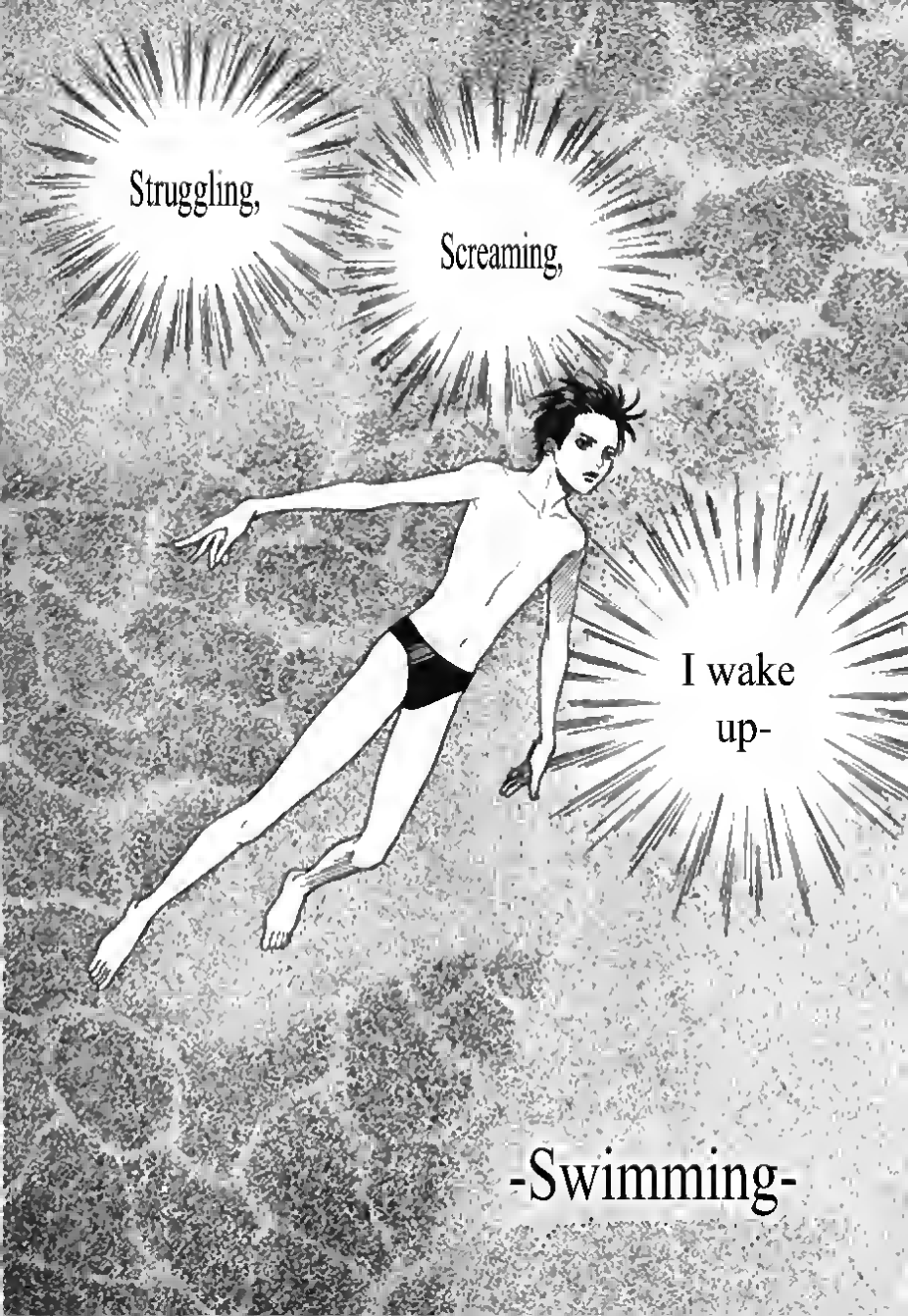
When I open my eyes, I always see his (normal) face,
.....
And the endless numbness weighs on me heavily
Stop sleeping-
You are sleeping because it's Sunday- You won't be able to sleep tonight
Please play with me- I'm bored
.....
.....
...
Look,
Is it fun going to school?
It is so-so.
Do you have friends?

Friends?
I don't have ... something like that
.....
Normally fathers are-
Are they happy when their children don't have friends?
I don't know how other fathers are
...Stop looking at me.
Ah, why?
Do you hate it?
I hate it.
No, no-
Why does it make you sick when I look at you?
My father... looked happy.
He didn't say anything, but he looked like it.

Your dad wants to see you Why is that so bad? You are fussy~
Why do you want to see me? You see me everyday
Even if I see you everyday, I don't get tired of you
...He is really an amiable guy.
How can a son like me come from a father like him?
Like I told you before, we are going to have one month of swimming lessons, starting today
I know how to swim a bit
I went to the sea with my father when I was young-
We are going to do start simple, just holding your breath underwater floating, and paddling with your feet Let's get comfortable in water first


I probably can t do it that well though
Splash
Splash


Sense
Sense
Sense
Sense is

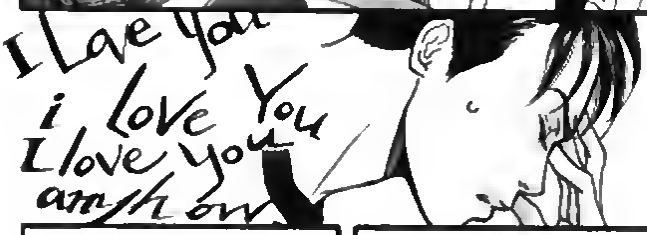

Struggling,
Screaming,
I wake up-
-Swimming-

Hey-
Yi Myung Gim, you're good at swimming?
Wow- it's like you're an athlete
You don't have to worry about your PE Grade
Swimming..?
.....
You're so fast-
I don't know if I swam... or did something
It is like all my senses are bursting out of my body.

I'm alive.
I'm alive.
I'm alive!
That fresh feeling which makes me crazy, that feeling which screams...
It is scary.
...?

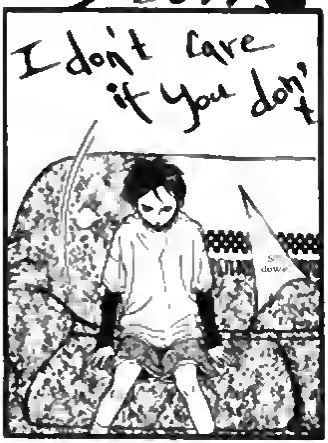
...Oh my word,
What is up with your body? Where did your /mark/ go?
Do you know how long we looked for you?
What happened, Keeper!
I found you. I finally found you!
?
How... how can you...
This is why it was hard to find you.

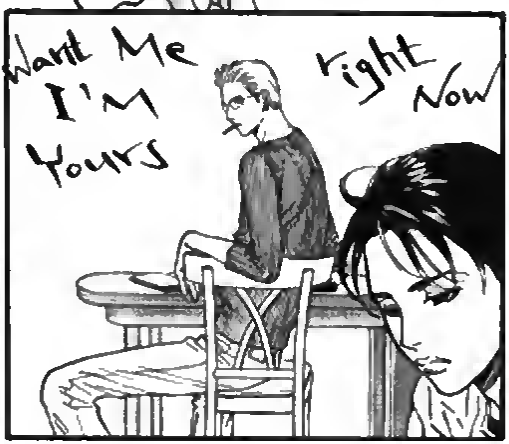
!!
Keeper!
Why are you running away?
Where are you trying to go?
Keeper-!
Keeper!
.....
I sometimes saw crazy people on the street
This is my first time actually facing one.



...What is this song?

It's noisy... and annoying.





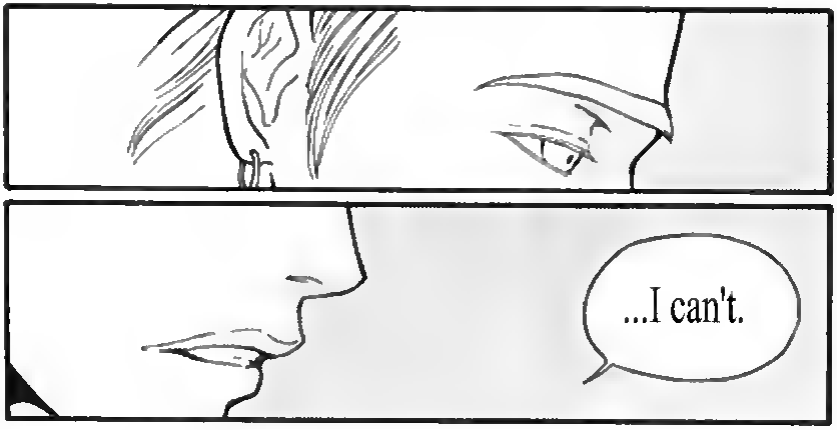
Why?
Did something happen?
No ...
.....
You had no problems at school today?
Yeah...
You look tired. What did you do?
.....
Swimming...
... Swimming?
Was it fun?
Just ...

Normal life- could not just be full of numbness-
I feel sleepy ...and comfortable...
My father's quiet usual voice and soft touch which caresses my hair,
Pat Pat
Yeah ...
Somehow it became comfortable
Let's eat outside this evening
There is a yummy restaurant
Something like this-
Unlike other times, it felt ...easier to appreciate.
Ah, you shouldn't sleep now You can't go outside later
Anyway, this person is not a bad father
Did you had a nice dinner?
Not all fathers can be friendly to a son who has personality like me, without arguing.
Some people can't adjust to people they can't stand, even if they're family
Let's come again next time

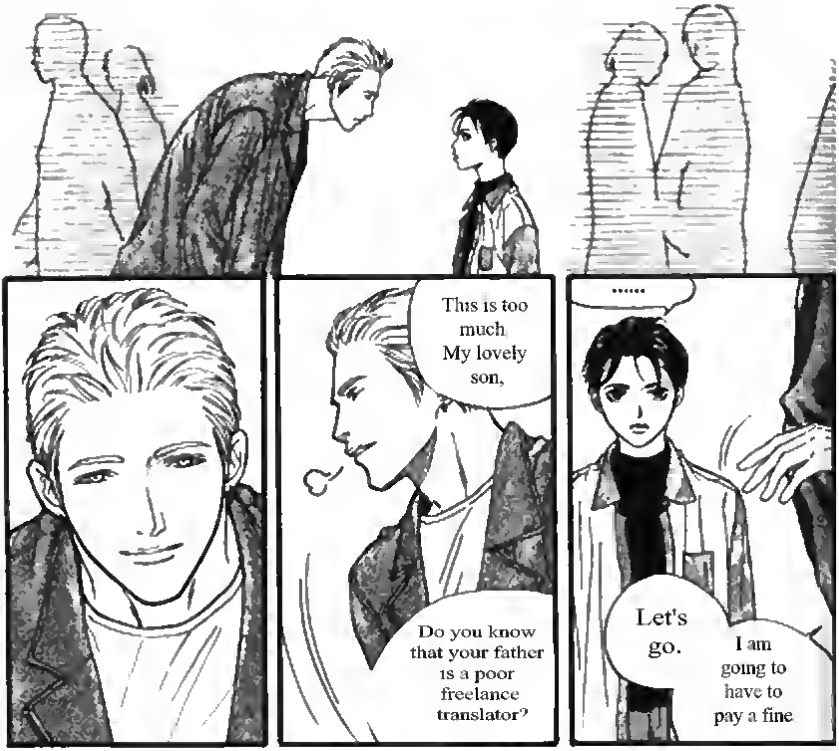
Yeah.
Wait here. I'll get the car.
Honk Honk
Yi Myung ~

What are you doing? Come quickly!
If I stop my car here, they're going to fine me
...I want to have that.
I want to have that.
...What?
That.

.....
Ah- it's pretty.
An orange gemstone. It looks like fire.
I have to have that
...Aah, I didn't know you would ever ask me to buy you something,
But that makes no sense.
What could you use something like a gemstone for?
I have to have it.
Look, look...
Where is my son who is expressionless?
.....
Let me... have it.


...I can't.

I'll never let you have it.
Do you understand?


This is too much My lovely son,
Do you know that your father is a poor freelance translator?
.....
Let's go.
I am going to have to pay a fine

Next day- I came to that shop again after school.

Ah, that is- gold blaze.
Isn't it pretty?
..Gold blaze
I know that color.
Come with your parents I will serve you a cool deal
An orange color, which is shining hot
A gold color like sunshine which you can see a little .
Warm... warm.
Hot.
...I have to have it.
Should I come here again at night..
The shutter window is a problem..
There will be alarms..
Hammer ..? Or something..
Keeper,
We looked for you for a long time

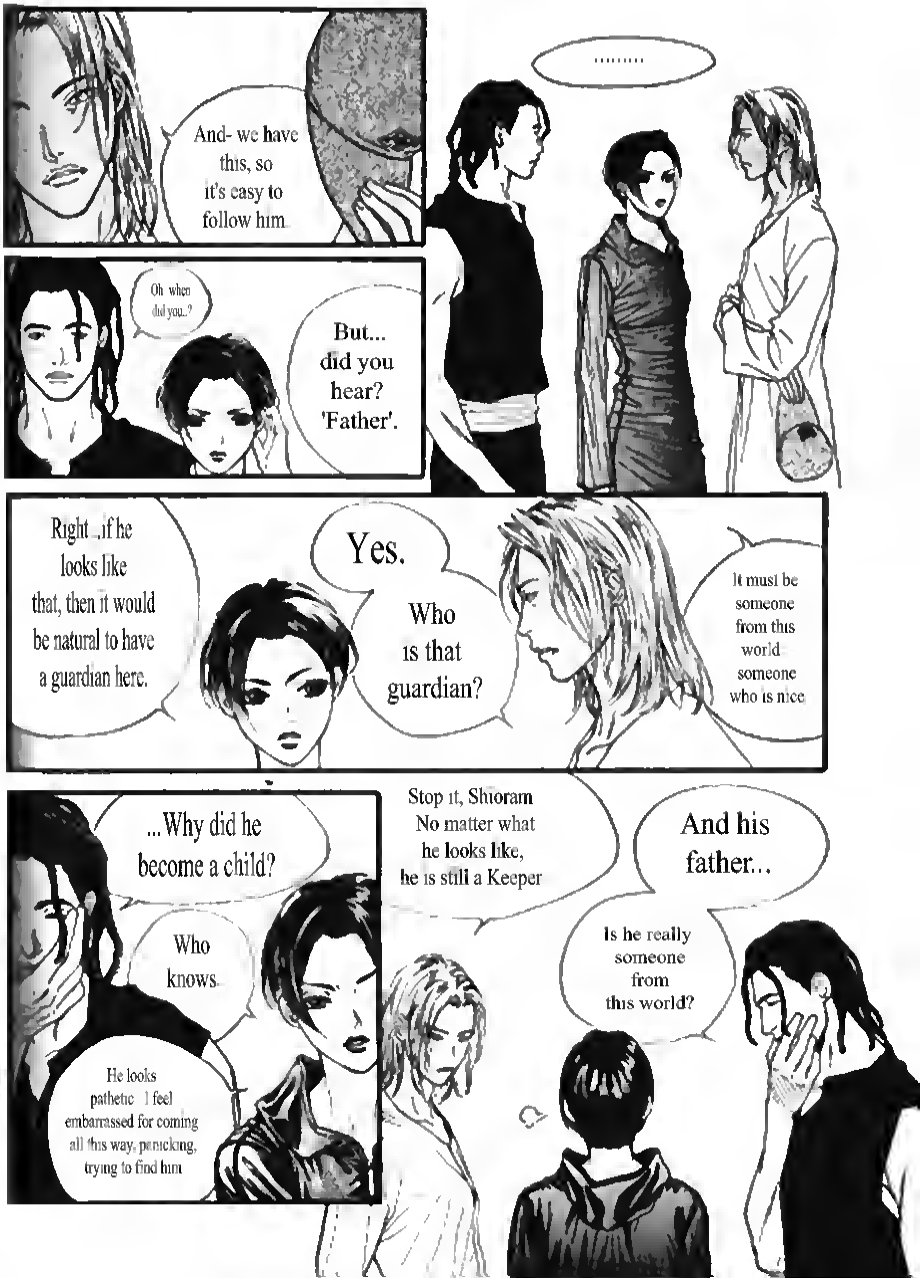
What are you thinking?
...?
Oh my god,
How can you do something reckless like this?
If I didn't hear about it from Yenta, this would have been shocking.
You are cute, yeah?
This small boy is really Keeper?
A Keeper without /mark/. I am doubting my eyes.
Yes, Shioram. Who could have thought?
...! That weird guy before...!

Let me go-!
Who are you?!
.....
? Ha
Let me go!
!!
Aack!
Keeper!
...Keeper.
No way...
His memory...?
Damn it

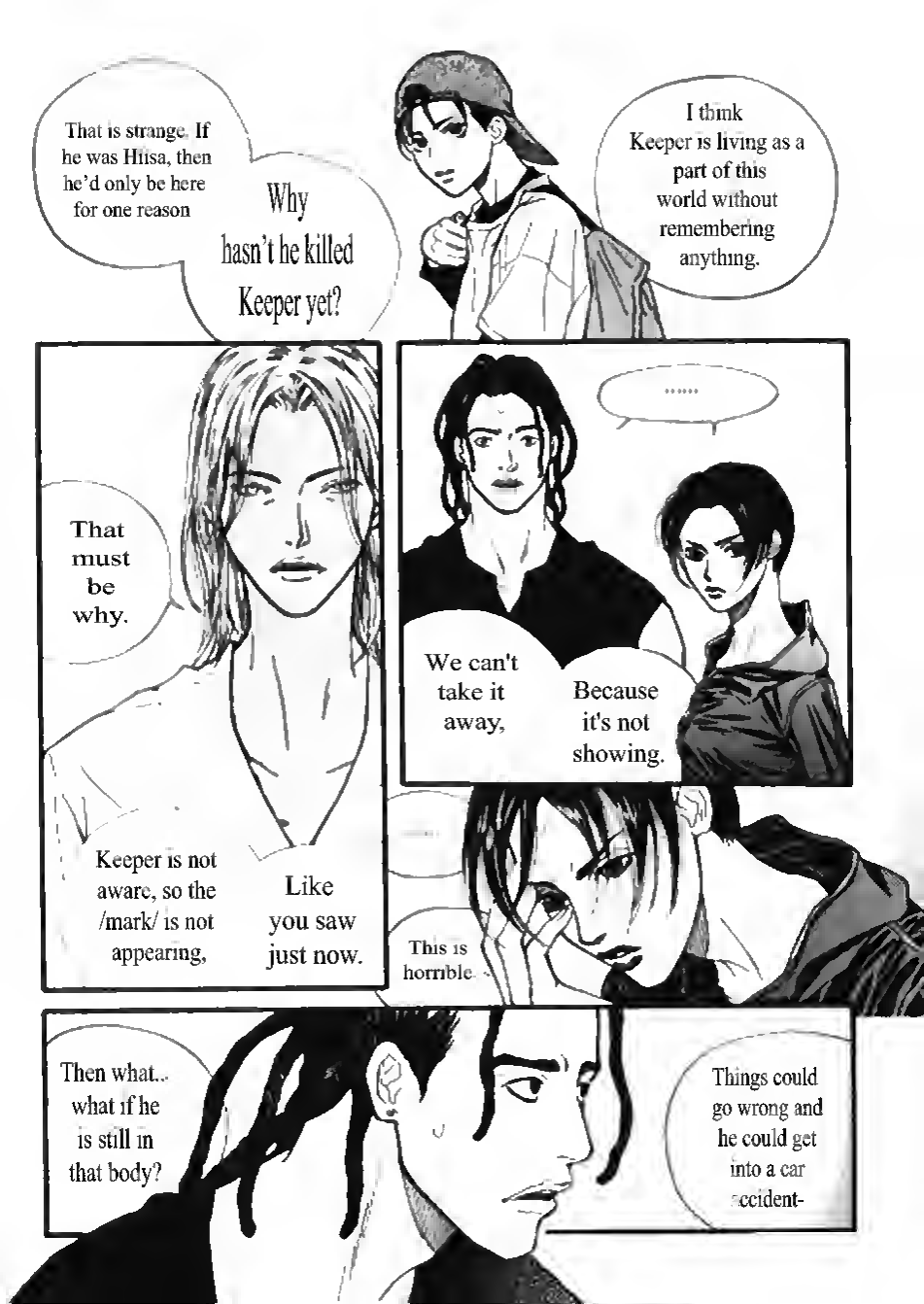
He is lying to us to make us think that he is not him Numan
I can recognize him though
How can he not know us?
.....
No-no.
It is a little strange.
Keeper-!
Damn it!
Why-
Why are you causing so much trouble?!

Please think about us when we have to kill ourselves to follow you!
.....
...Do you really not remember us?
I don't know.
How do I know?!
.....
Keeper...
Mage...
Ember...
Nowhere...

Does those words hold no meaning for you?
I don't know.
I don't know who you think I am, but let me go.
If I am late, my father will be worried
.....
Let him go.
Numan?!
Why? We went to a lot of trouble to catch him.
He's not useful to us now,


And- we have this, so it's easy to follow him
.....
Oh when did you..?
But... did you hear? 'Father'.
Right ..if he looks like that, then it would be natural to have a guardian here.
Yes.
Who is that guardian?
It must be someone from this world someone who is nice
...Why did he become a child?
Who knows.
He looks pathetic I feel embarrassed for coming all this way, panicking, trying to find him
Stop it, Shioram No matter what he looks like, he is still a Keeper
And his father...
Is he really someone from this world?

Could he be someone from our world?
I'm suspicious
...There is a possibility.
But who? Not many people can swim among mages.
There are only five people in the Black Line who can do that, and us three are here, so other two must be having hard time trying to keep our world alive
...No, there is one more person.
Not Black Line, but White Line
Someone who is good at swimming.
!!
Someone- Have you seen Hiisa recently?
.....
...If it is really Hiisa-
He moved very quickly
But-


That is strange. If he was Hitsa, then he'd only be here for one reason
Why hasn't he killed Keeper yet?
I think Keeper is living as a part of this world without remembering anything.
That must be why.
Keeper is not aware, so the /mark/ is not appearing,
Like you saw just now.
.....
We can't take it away,
Because it's not showing.
This is horrible.
Then what.. what if he is still in that body?
Things could go wrong and he could get into a car accident-

What if he doesn't give the /mark/ to us and dies?!
헉 헉
...Good I don't think they're following me
Some weird guy and even more women
What ...did she call me ...?
Ke...
<Keeper.>

What...does it mean?

I don't know...

<Mage>

I don't know...

<Ember>

I don't know.

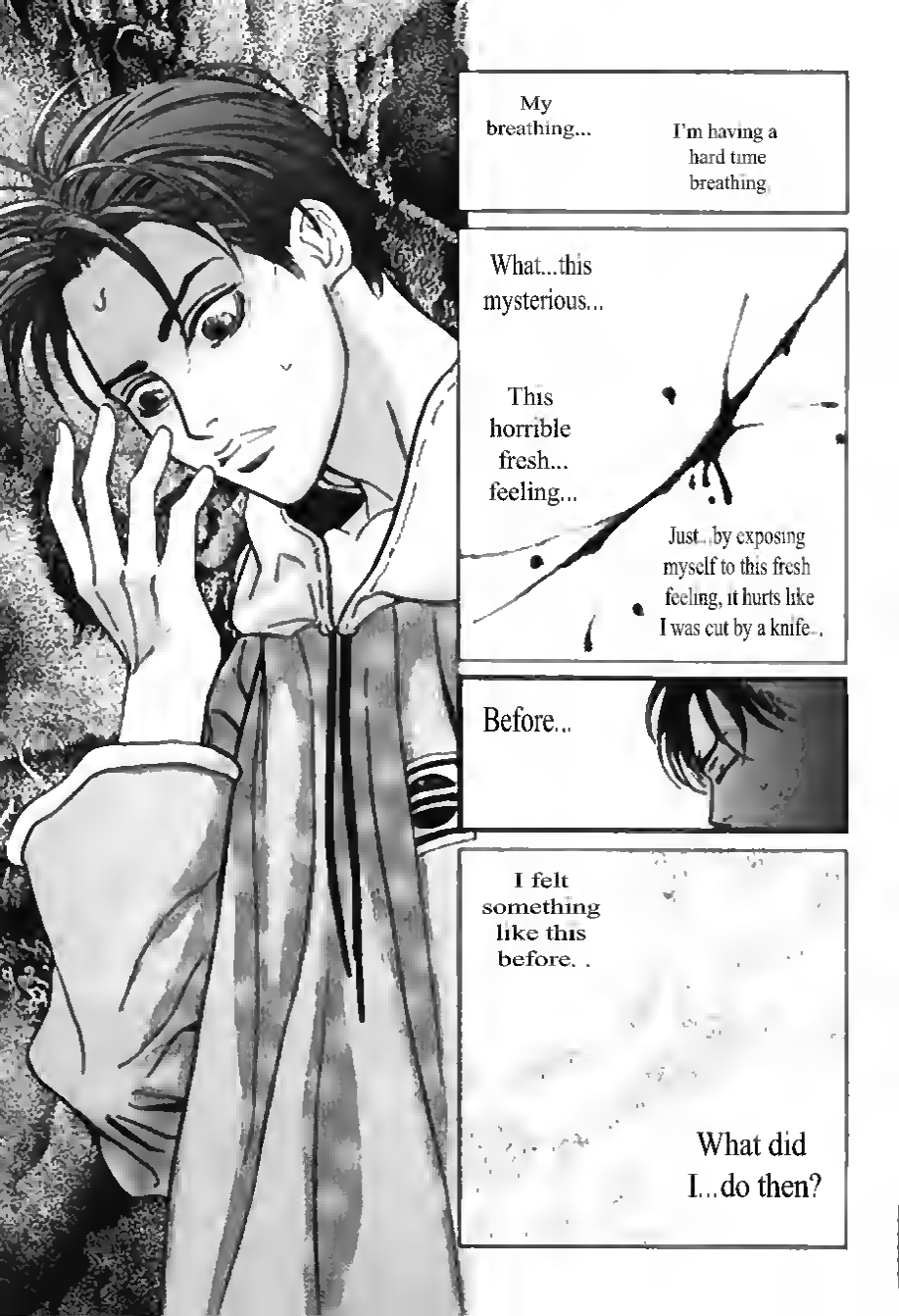
<Nowhere>

I don't know...

Keeper...

Keeper...

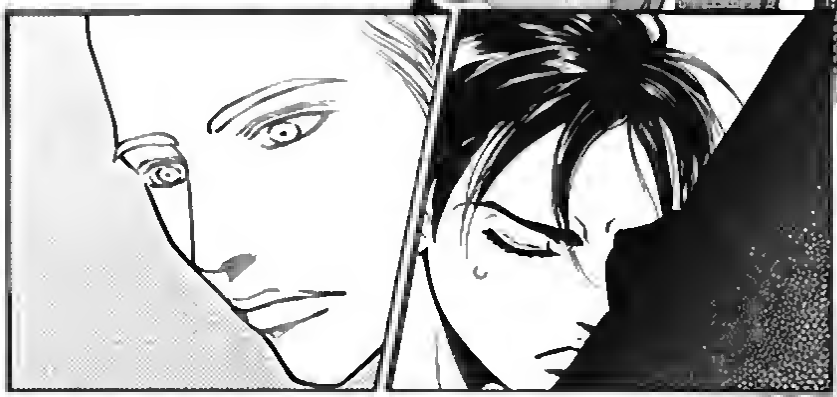
Closer.

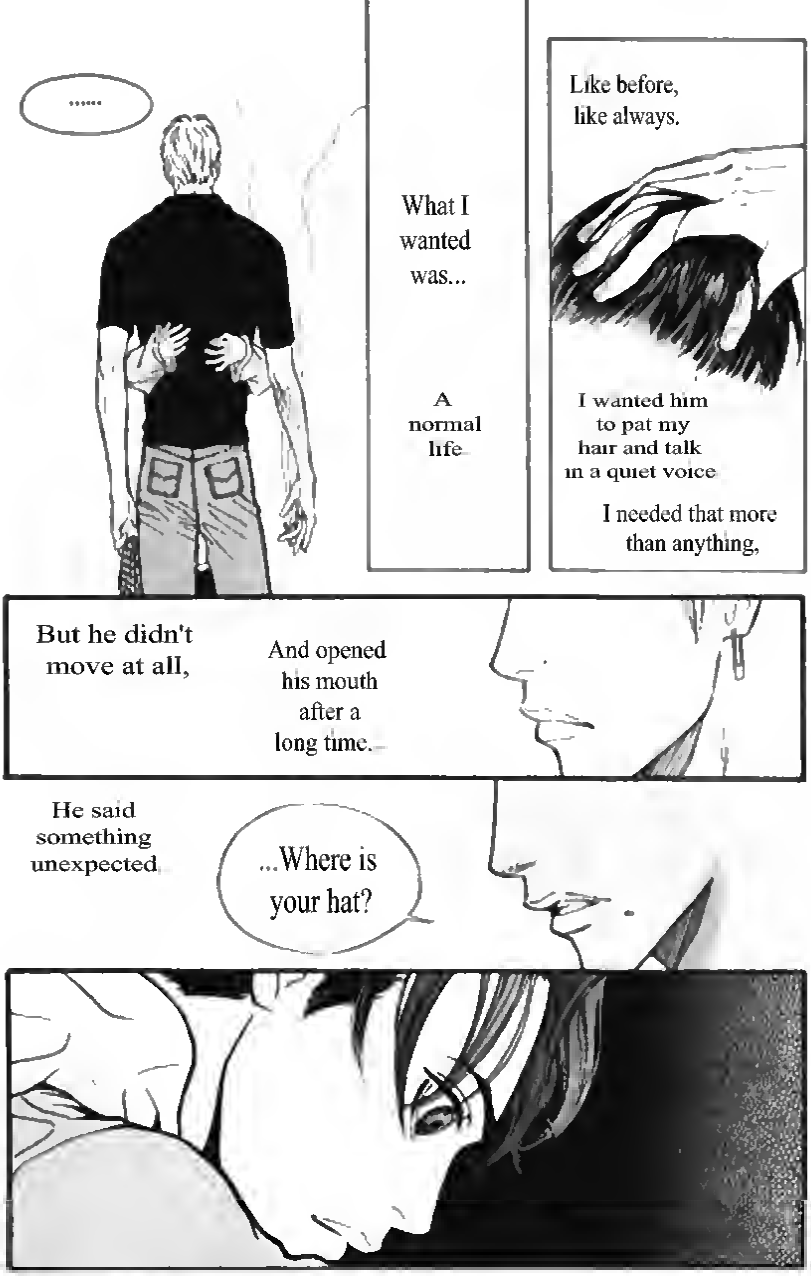

My breathing...
I'm having a hard time breathing
What...this mysterious...
This horrible fresh... feeling...
Just...by exposing myself to this fresh feeling, it hurts like I was cut by a knife...
Before...
I felt something like this before...
What did I...do then?

<Normal life>-

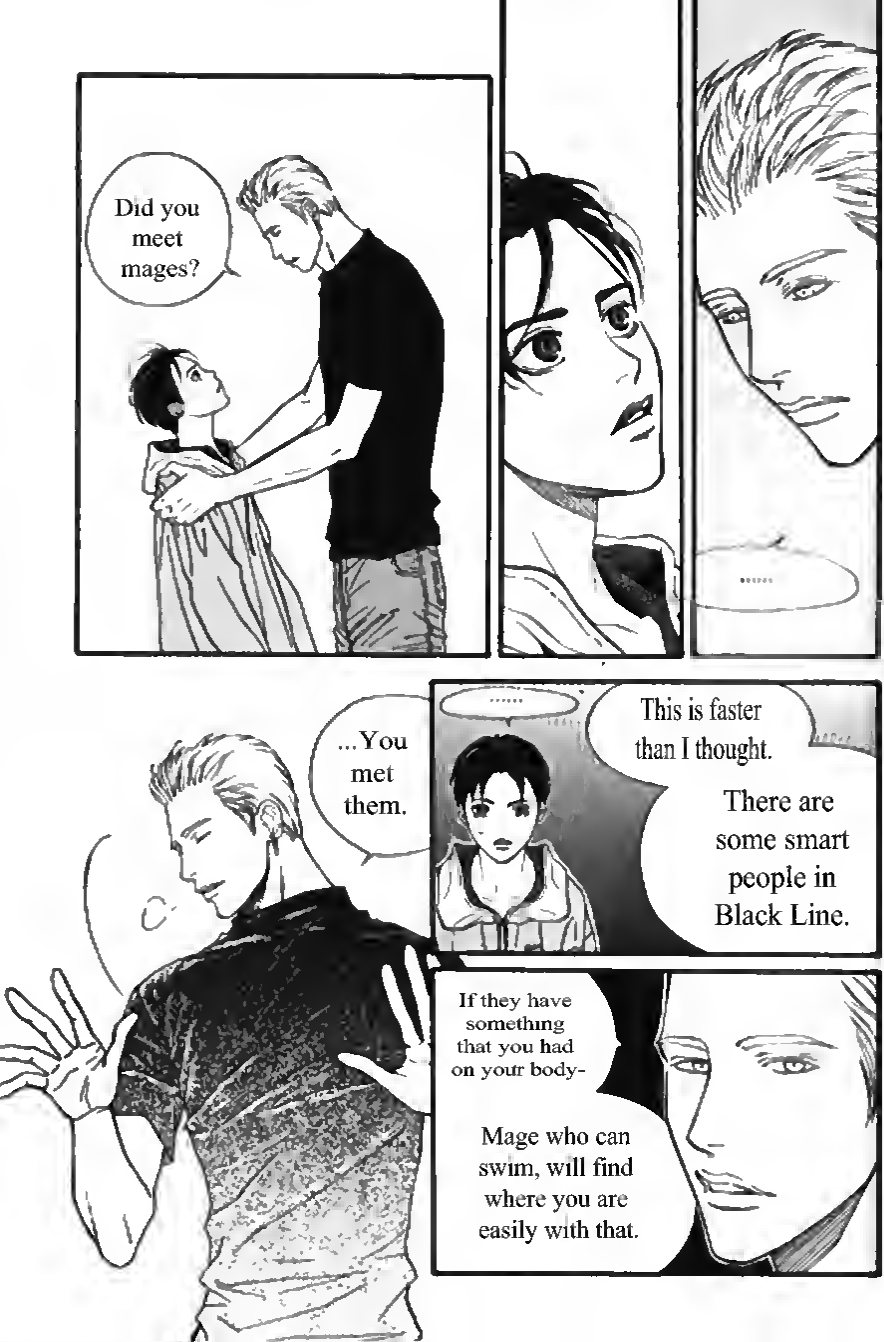
I should go back ... to my normal life.
Yi Myung, you're just coming home now?
You're a little late.

I was thinking I'd come and see where you are.



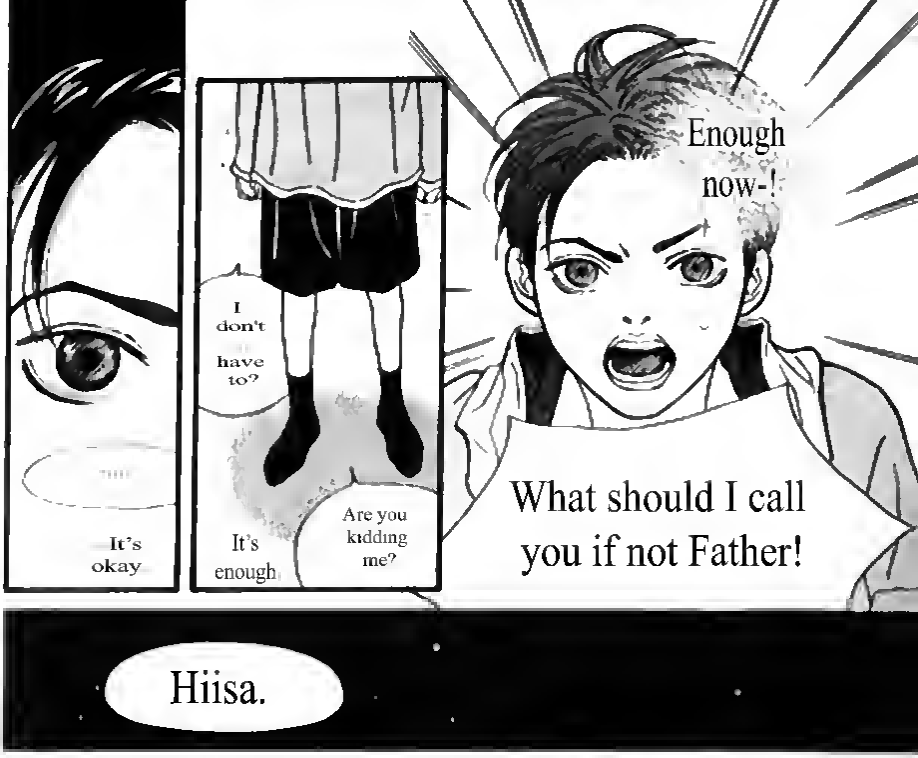

.....
What I wanted was...
A normal life
Like before, like always.
I wanted him to pat my hair and talk in a quiet voice
I needed that more than anything,
But he didn't move at all,
And opened his mouth after a long time.
He said something unexpected
...Where is your hat?

Hat?
.....
Hat ...?
I don't know...
I must have dropped it.
Strange expression...
Weird eyes...
Did you meet someone?
Did someone take it?
Soft- too soft voice..


Did you meet mages?
.....
.....
This is faster than I thought.
There are some smart people in Black Line.
...You met them.
If they have something that you had on your body-
Mage who can swim, will find where you are easily with that.

They will come here soon...
I quite liked this house.
The voice which sounds like usual...
Now what should I do?
Smile ...like always.
But.. something is different.
It's not normal life.
Normal life?
Was there... such a thing?
Did it really... exist?
Very simple...
Very, very simple...

Should I take you and run away to buy us some time?
I don't have enough time to confuse the cobweb, but if I manage, we could run away somehow
Or- is it better to give you to them?
It won't be bad to see what's going on.
How about you?
What do you want to do?
Mm...if we are making a decision, we should do it now.
Soon it's going to be... The time
...Father.
Father-
...You don't have to call me that anymore


Enough now-!
What should I call you if not Father!
I don't have to?
Are you kidding me?
It's enough.
It's okay
Hiisa.

Somehow...
Hi... isa?
Somewhere...
You can call me by that name

Somewhere...
Did you like the memories I gave you?
Like something flowed towards me from his eyes.
All the memories which became alive like I was sucked inside of them.
The warm and beautiful memories?
I think I made them well.
I specialize in swimming and giving memories

Swim...
Swim...
Yes, swim-ming.
You like swimming like me.
...Let's go to nowhere
I want to swim with you
.....
What ?
Blink
Blink
What... really...
Swimming...

Swimming.
If now ...
Swimming.
If you are joking around,
I will kill you.
Huh ...?
I am not... kidding.

Well...I think you know that already anyway.
It is here!

Bang

The fire is dying.
The fire is dying.
It was burning hot and bright once, Aah, we believed that it would burn forever.
This fire of life is smaller.
When the fire is completely dead, when the last ember dies,
This world will face the end.
Aah, that warm, shining splendor,

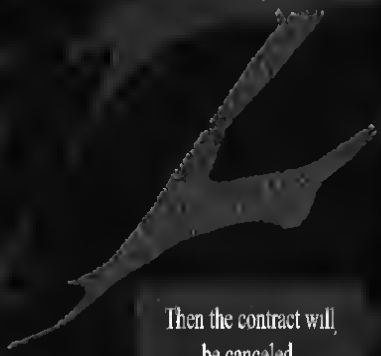
That brought me out from the land of abyss where life doesn't dare approach.
It is us. /Power/ we summoned you.
Do you know that you have to pay a big price for this summoning?
We don't care. /Power/. Please give life to our world.
I am not a life,
No, you are /Power/.

So I can't live unless I am possessing something...
I will make the most powerful person your bearer.
Then the life before me will be for the death on the back side.
We considered everything and summoned you, /Power/ Please make a contract with us.
...Okay.

/Power/ is a /mark/ and /mark/ will be on a life.

As the /mark/ exist, this world will exist.

When the life of the person who has it ends, then the /mark/ will be destroyed as well.



Then the contract will be canceled, and /Power/ will go back to abyss. This is the contract.

This is the contract. /Power/ please let this be an eternal contract. Let our race, mage, live forever.

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